

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 01711 231546Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
-----231548 013172 /45

O 231519Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 43

S E C R E T BOGOTA 01711

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, CASC, CO
SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER

FOR AMBASSADOR HECK FROM THE AMBASSADOR

PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR SORZANO PLANS TO CONTACT VILLAMIL
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 24 TO CARRY OUT THE INSTRUCTIONS IN
STATE 039688. I BELIEVE THAT SORZANO WILL HANDLE THIS CONTACT
WELL, JUST AS HE DID THE FIRST ONE. HOWEVER, HIS ROLE IS
NATURALLY CAUSING HIM SOME NERVOUSNESS AND
HE IS CONCERNED THAT HE MIGHT BE INCURRING A GREATER SECURITY
RISK. OBJECTIVELY, WE DO NOT THINK HE IS RUNNING A GREATER
RISK AND HAVE TOLD HIM SO, BUT NONTHELESS SORZANO IS OBVIOUSLY
STILL WORRIED. HIS WIFE SEEMS EVEN MORE CONCERNED (PARTICULARLY
WITH REGARD TO THEIR CHILDREN) AND THIS ALSO NATURALLY DISTURBS
HIM. LARGELY FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL PRUPOSES WE ARE PUTTING AN
ARMED GUARD ON THE SORZANO HOUSE FOR EVERY NIGHT BEGINNING
TODAY. WE WILL TAKE ADDITIONAL
MEASURES (E.G. EXTENDING GUARD SERVICE,
ADDDING BODYGUARDS) IF SORZANO WISHES. I FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT
THESE DEVELOPMENTS ARE GOING TO PLACE A LIMITATION ON THE
EXTENT TO WHICH WE WILL BE ABLE TO PURSUE OUR TACTIC OF KEEPING
THE PEACE CORPS OUT IN FRONT HERE. IN PARTICULAR, I DO NOT
THINK WE SHOULD INSIST ON HAVING SORZANO BEAR THE BURDEN OF
SECRET

SECRET

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HANDLING AND MAINTAINING DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE FARC ONCE
THEY MAKE THEIR DEMANDS KNOWN TO US. WE REPORTED EARLIER THAT WE
THOUGHT THE FARC WOULD BE INCLINED TO CONTACT THE EMBASSY DIRECTLY.
THE SORZANO-VILLAMIL EXCHANGES HAVE PROBABLY MADE IT SOMEWHAT
MORE LIKELY THE FARC WOULD TURN FIRST TO SORZANO. EVEN IF THAT
WERE TOLHAPPEN, HOWEVER, THE FARC WOULD PROBABLY INSIST ON
DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE EMBASSY BEFORE LONG.

SANCHEZ

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: KIDNAPPING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Reason:
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TAGS: ASEC, PINS, CASC, CO, US, PC, (STARR, RICHARD)
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